



Guidelines For Mercury-Containing Fever Thermometer Exchanges

In cooperation with Cinergy and Eli Lilly and Company



The following guidelines were developed as a result of [past mercury exchange experiences](#). If you are using digital thermometers provided by [Cinergy, Lilly, and IDEM](#), you must follow the guidelines.

1. Place at least one paid advertising item in the largest local newspaper. Please make sure the ad is at least 1/8 page. Please recognize IDEM, Cinergy, Eli Lilly and Company and other sponsors in the ad, including the [solid waste management district](#), if they are handling the recycling of the mercury for the exchange event. Please include language in the ad that is similar to “we accept mercury-containing fever thermometers and liquid mercury – please package your items carefully for transport to the event.” Fax a copy of the ad to IDEM at (317) 233-5627 for approval. IDEM must approve all advertising for thermometer exchange events that use Cinergy, Lilly, and IDEM thermometers.

Other newspaper, TV and radio ads may be run at requestor’s discretion. We suggest email distribution to employees as an effective way of getting the word out.

2. Work with IDEM to determine if you need to purchase additional digital thermometers.
3. Provide one 8-foot table available for the event. If the event is outside, make sure to be prepared for wind/rain/inclement weather.
4. Make arrangements for the recycling of the mercury-containing items with your [local solid waste management district](#). IDEM will help you with this task. If the district cannot provide recycling services, you must pay for the recycling of the mercury. Mercury must go to a [mercury recycler](#), not a hazardous waste disposal facility.
5. Return any unused thermometers to IDEM for distribution in the future.
6. If IDEM is not present for the exchange, you must provide us with a complete list of all mercury-containing items collected during the event.

IDEM expertise is available to support your thermometer exchange event. We will bring collection containers, spill kits and signs for the event. We also have literature to give to each customer.

If you do not want IDEM help with your event, we strongly recommend you have someone on hand who has mercury expertise. These events generate interest in mercury by the general public. Occasionally, someone will bring a large container of elemental mercury, and a mercury spill is possible. You need to be prepared for a potential large [spill](#). The amount of mercury in one fever thermometer (1/2 gram) can contaminate a 10-acre lake.

For additional information, call IDEM’s [Office of Pollution Prevention & Technical Assistance](#) at (800) 988-7901 or (317) 232-8172.